GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:26
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
BOMB BLASTS
Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Munshiram Shri

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of investigation into the incidents of bomb-explosions in cinema hall in Delhi has been completed;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the name(s)of the organisation(s) found involved in these incidents;

(d) whether the incidents of bomb blasts in the country have increased in the recent past;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(f) the number of persons injured/killed in such blasts;

(g) the name(s) of the organizations involved in each of such blasts and the countries providing assistance to such organizations;

(h) the number of persons so far arrested in this connection and the quantum of explosive seized therefrom, incident-wise; and

(i) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such blasts in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (i): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 26TH JULY, 2005 REGARDING BOMB BLASTS.

(a) to (i): The investigation in the two cases registered by Delhi Police in connection with bomb explosions in cinema halls in Delhi on 22nd May, 2005 is in progress. Delhi Police has so far arrested eight persons accused in the case and recovered (i) 5.7 Kgs. of RDX, (ii) 23 detonators, (iii) 1 timer, (iv) 1 rifle, (303), (v) 90 rounds of live cartridges of rifle (303), (vi) 3 empty magazines, (vii) 5 magazines of 30 bore, and (viii) one Tata Sierra. The interrogation of the accused persons has revealed that they are members of the terrorist organization Babbar Khalsa International. The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent terrorist attacks/bomb blasts include: (i) sensitization of public through the print and electronic media; (ii) checking of vehicles, persons and baggage in crowded market places and places of entertainment; (iii) checking of guesthouses, hotels, religious places etc. in certain areas where terrorist elements could take shelter; (iv) checking of tenants, particularly in the new and developing areas; (v) surprise checking of vehicles plying in the city and those arriving from J&K, Punjub etc. at Azad Pur Mandi and Okhla Subzi Mandi; (vi) close interaction with the State and Central Police Organizations for exchange of information; etc.

In the country as a whole, the available information does not indicate an increase in the number of bomb blasts. During 2004 there were 298 incidents in which 271 persons were killed and 1026 persons were injured.

In comparison, during 2001, there were 575 incidents in which 342 persons were killed and 1197 injured. However, the Government is very vigilant and has taken several steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. The steps taken by the Government include review of security arrangements from time to time; sharing of intelligence with State Governments; strengthening State police organizations through the Police Modernization Scheme; issue of advisories to State Governments for strengthening security at important religious shrines, vital installations of national importance etc.